



NEWS RELEASE

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Slow down, our moms and dads work here!

National Work Zone Safety Week is April 23 - 27

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 20, 2012) — A split second of driver distraction can turn a highway work zone into a death zone.

Each year, over 40,000 people in the United States – moms, dads, sons and daughters – are injured in highway work zones, and hundreds are killed. The average is a death every 13 hours and hundreds of injuries every 13 minutes.

The past three years in Kentucky, 16 people died and 285 people were injured in highway construction and maintenance work zones. That underscores the importance of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's work zone safety campaign April 23 - 27, in conjunction with National Work Zone Safety Week. The cabinet is hosting events across the state to highlight the safety message and will run radio public service announcements featuring Transportation Cabinet employees and children of employees.

"Sadly, Kentuckians are killed every year while working to make our roadways safe," Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock said. "They are not statistics. These are someone's parents or children. We hope our message – voiced by children of our own employees – will encourage drivers to think about the consequences of speeding and not paying attention in a work zones."

Work zones involve more than highway crews. They also involve utility crews, mowing contractors, brush cutters and tree trimmers, to name a few. Eighty-five percent of those killed in work zones are not the workers but motorists. "That indicates a deadly lack of attention to the road ahead," said Bill Bell, director of the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety.

The Transportation Cabinet will invest in hundreds of highway projects again this year. Traditionally, the highway construction season kicks off in April. Cabinet engineers and contractors work cooperatively to design projects and work schedules that minimize delays and crashes.

“Work zone safety concerns all of us,” Bell said. “Every driver has a role to play in keeping our roadways safe. By working together, we can end the needless loss of life in highway work zones.”

The cabinet asks motorists to practice 10 work zone safety tips:

1. Expect the unexpected.
2. Slow down.
3. Don't tailgate. Keep a safe distance between vehicles.
4. Keep a safe distance from workers and equipment.
5. Pay attention to signs.
6. Obey road crew flaggers.
7. Stay alert and minimize distractions.
8. Keep up with the traffic flow.
9. Schedule enough time and call 511 or go to www.511.ky.gov for Kentucky traffic and travel information.
10. Be patient and stay calm.

Click [here](#) for more information and to hear the radio public service announcements.

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